

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Revocation)	
)	
or Suspension of the Educators)	ORDER OF ACCEPTANCE OF
)	VOLUNTARY SURRENDER
Certificate of Craig J. Richard)	
)	
Certificate # 204368)	

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on August 12, 2003. On February 8, 2003, Spartanburg County School District Three (District) notified the State Department of Education (Department) of the resignation of Ms. Craig J. Richard following allegations by several female students that he had an engaged in sexually inappropriate behavior. Mr. Richard's attorney, Carl L. Solomon, Esquire, has proposed to the Department that Mr. Richard be permitted to voluntarily surrender his South Carolina educators certificate # 204368 (certificate). This surrender will be reported as required to the NASDTEC clearinghouse and all school districts in South Carolina, as a voluntary surrender on the grounds of unprofessional and immoral conduct. After considering the evidence presented by the Department, the State Board voted to accept the voluntary surrender of Mr. Richard's certificate, effective August 12, 2003.

Mr. Richard is certified educator with over four years of teaching experience. Mr. Richard taught in three school districts since 1995 under a renewable Critical Needs Certificate in science, and was employed as a science teacher at Broome High School (school) for the 2002-2003 school year. In July 2002 he became eligible for a professional certificate. On November 15, 2003, the District placed Mr. Richard on administrative leave with pay following an investigation into allegations that he had sex with a sixteen-year-old student at the school. Mr. Richard remained on leave until he resigned effective March 24, 2003. Two female students alleged that they engaged in consensual sex acts with Mr. Richard. Mr. Richard denied the sexual misconduct but did admit that he spoke with male students about the sexual behavior of certain female students. He also allowed himself to be alone with a female student after he was warned that this behavior was not to be repeated. The allegations of sexual misconduct came to the attention of school officials after one of the students confided in another teacher, and the other student confided in a friend.

Accepted

Initial
here

Date:

Craig J.
Richard

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

"The South Carolina State Board of Education may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (1990). Just cause includes:

unprofessional conduct, immorality, and any conduct involving moral turpitude, S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (1990); 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regulation 43-58 (1992). The State Board finds that the preponderance of the evidence presented by the Department, which is undisputed by Mr. Richard, supports its decision to accept the voluntary surrender of Mr. Richard's teaching certificate, effective August 12, 2003.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: /S/ Greg Killian
Greg Killian
Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
August 12, 2003

I, Craig J. Richard, SC Teaching Certificate #204368, do hereby agree to this Order of Voluntary Surrender, consisting of two pages, and understand that this Order will be presented as signed to the State Board of Education on Tuesday, August 12, 2003.

11Aug 03
Date

/S/ Craig Richard
Signature